

Jan. 11 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2001

NOTE: The interview began at 11:37 p.m. aboard Air Force One en route to Andrews Air Force Base, MD. In his remarks, the President referred to President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea; Governor Gray Davis of California; Gore 2000 campaign director William M. Daley and his brother, Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; former Minister of Foreign Affairs Ariel Sharon and former Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel;

President-elect George W. Bush; Vice President-elect Dick Cheney; Secretary of State-designate Colin L. Powell; President Bashar al-Asad of Syria, son of the late President Hafiz al-Asad; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Betty Currie, the President's personal secretary. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Security Strategy of the United States *January 11, 2001*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 603 of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, I am transmitting a report on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 12.

Remarks on the 2001 Economic Report and an Exchange With Reporters *January 12, 2001*

The President. Good morning. Today I'm sending my eighth and final economic report prepared by the Council of Economic Advisers. I want to thank Dr. Martin Baily, Kathryn Shaw, Robert Lawrence, and the CEA staff for their fine work in analyzing America's new economy.

I also want to thank Secretary Summers, Gene Sperling, Jack Lew, Sylvia Mathews, my entire economic team for all they have done these last 8 years to turn our country around and move us forward together.

Over the last 8 years, these annual economic reports have helped to tell America's story—a story of prosperity and progress, of the hard work of our people, and the results of policies rooted in common values and common sense. The message of this final report is clear: The economy remains strong, on a sound foundation, with a bright future.

Eight years ago it was a very different story, with 10 million of our fellow citizens out of

work, high interest rates, low confidence, a deficit that was \$290 billion and rising, a debt that had quadrupled in the previous 12 years. The new course we charted to eliminate the deficit, invest in education and the American people's future, and open overseas markets for America's products has worked. Year-in and year-out, we have resisted politically attractive but economically unwise temptations to veer from the path of fiscal discipline.

We have in the course of this effort turned the record deficits into record surpluses and produced the longest economic expansion in history. We have not only had 22½ million new jobs and the lowest unemployment in 30 years; we've been able to add to the life of both Medicare and Social Security to help ease the burden on future generations, and make the long-term solutions less difficult in the present. And we're on track to do something that was unimaginable